

TITRATION/COMPLIANCE PACK

5 The present invention is generally directed to a titration package for enabling compliance with a regimen of changing dosage of medication over a period of time and is more particularly directed to a dosage pack for dosing of oral Memantine for the indication of preventing further nerve cell loss in glaucoma patients.

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 Glaucoma is characterized by damaged to the optic nerve which is typically accompanied by a decrease in normal vision field. An early sign of possible glaucomatous visual field loss is elevated interocular pressure.

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 In that regard, glaucoma has typically been treated by medically and/or surgically lowering elevated interocular pressure. Memantine and other compounds suitable for chronic administration should be administered to avoid adverse events
20 associated with the drug, for example, patients prescribed Memantine therapy need to be titrated upwards from 5mg of Memantine per day to a maintenance dose of either 10mg or 20mg per day. Memantine approved for other indications also requires similar titration schedules to avoid drug-related
25 adverse events.

 The present invention is directed to a titration package for enabling compliance with a regimen of changing dosage of medication over a period of time and further provides for a

method of treating a human patient to reduce damage to retinal ganglion cells associated with glaucoma utilizing the titration package in accordance with the present invention.

5 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A titration package for enabling compliance with a regimen of changing dosage of medication over a period of time in accordance with the present invention generally includes a
10 backing having an array of receivers with the array including a plurality of columns and a plurality of rows.

A plurality of sets of tablets are provided in the receivers. Each tablet in a set has a common dose of
15 medication and a different dose than a tablet of a different set. Each set of tablets is disposed in receivers of one of an adjacent row and an adjacent column.

Indicia is provided and disposed adjacent the columns and
20 rows for displaying common days and successive weeks. Thus, the package provides for a titration schedule which prevents adverse events as a result of mis-dosing. As a result, the package in accordance with the present invention provides for a safer and accordingly more beneficial method for enabling
25 compliance with the regimen.

More particularly, in one embodiment of the present invention different sets of tablets are disposed in different rows with each row being indicated by a successive week and

each column being indicated as a different day of the week. In this embodiment, the sets of tablets having increased doses are disposed in receivers in rows indicated as successive weeks. More specifically, the sets of tablets have 5mg, 10mg,
5 15mg and 20mg doses of Memantine.

In an alternative embodiment, different sets of tablets are disposed in different columns, with each column being indicated as a successive week and each row being indicated as
10 a different day of the week.

In yet another embodiment of the present invention, the titration package for enabling compliance with a regimen of changing doses of medication over a period of time includes a
15 backing having an array or receivers with the array including a plurality of columns and a plurality of rows. In this embodiment, a plurality of sets of tablets are provided with each set being disposed in receivers of a plurality of adjacent rows or a plurality of adjacent columns. This
20 plurality may be two and each tablet in a set has a common dose of medication and a different dose than a tablet in a different set.

Preferably, in this embodiment pairs of adjacent rows
25 have differing sets of tablets. This enables the change of dosage over an eight-week period of time from 5mg to 20mg doses of Memantine.

Thus, the present invention provides for a method for enabling compliance with a regimen of changing dosage of medication with the method comprising the steps of providing a backing having an array of receivers, with the array including
5 a plurality of columns and a plurality of rows. The method further includes disposing a plurality of sets of tablets and the receivers with each tablet in the set having a common dose of medication and a different dose than a tablet of a different set. Each set is disposed in receivers of one of an
10 adjacent row and an adjacent column. The method finally includes a step of providing indicia adjacent the columns and rows indicating common days and successive weeks.

A concomitant method in accordance with the present
15 invention provides for a method of treating a human patient to reduce damage to retinal ganglion cells associated with glaucoma with the method comprising providing a titration package for enabling compliance with a regimen of changing dosage of medication over a period of time. The package
20 includes the elements hereinabove recited and further the medication comprises Memantine.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

25 The present invention may be more clearly understood with reference to the following detailed description in conjunction with the appended drawings of which:

Figure 1 is a representation of a titration package in accordance with the present invention for enabling compliance with a regimen of changing dosage of medication over a four-week period of time;

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Figure 2 is a representation of a titration package similar to that shown in Figure 1 enabling compliance with a regimen of changing dosage of medication over a period of eight weeks; and

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Figure 3 is a representation similar to the titration package shown in Figure 2 showing an alternative arrangement of days and successive weeks, as will be hereinafter described.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The titration package and method in accordance to the present invention is particularly useful for the dosage of oral medication for infirmed and elderly patients and accordingly the manipulation of tablets enabled by the present invention and tracking of compliance with a titration schedule is a great advantage. In the case of treatment of glaucoma, and the use of a medicament, such as, for example Memantine, the progression of blindness also demands a need for the present invention.

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With reference to Figure 1, there is represented a titration package 10 for enabling compliance with a regimen of

changing dosage of medication over a period of time, for example four weeks with the package 10 including a backing 12 which includes an array 18 of receivers holding a plurality of sets 24, 26, 28, 30 of tablets 34, 36, 38, 40.

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The receivers 20 may be conventional, rupturable blisters as, for example, as set forth in U.S. RE29,705 which is to be incorporated herewith in its entirety for the purpose of describing the type of rupturable receivers suitable for use
10 with the present invention.

The backing 12 may be any suitable plastic or paperboard backing and may be incorporated into protective coverings, not shown, such as, for example, shown in U.S. Patent No.
15 6,047,829. This patent is to also be incorporated herewith in its entirety by this specific reference thereto for showing a backing and dispensing package construction suitable for use in the present invention.

20 With continued reference to Figure 1, the array 18 of receivers 20 includes a plurality of columns indicated by the arrows 44 and a plurality of rows indicated by the arrows 46. Indicia 50, 52 is provided and disposed adjacent the columns 44 and rows 46, preferably on the backing 12 displays common
25 days and successive weeks.

As shown in Figure 1, different sets are disposed in different rows 46 as indicated by week 1, week 2, week 3, and week 4. The number following the indicia "week" indicating

successive weeks and the columns 44 indicated as Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday indicating different days of the week.

5 With regard to the treatment of glaucoma, the set 24 includes 5mg of Memantine, the set 26 includes tablets of 10mg of Memantine, the set 28 includes tablets of 15mg of Memantine, and the set 30 includes tablets of 30mg of Memantine arranged in the rows 46 indicated as week 1, week 2,
10 week 3, and week 4. In accordance with the present invention, a patient utilizing the package and method of the present invention is titrated from a 5mg dose to a 20mg dose of the Memantine.

15 In use, a patient beginning the regimen may start on any given day of the week, for example, Tuesday and progressively take the tablets by rupturing the receivers 20 along a row until all of the tablets 34 have been dispensed. At that time, the patient begins week 2 of the regimen by taking the
20 tablets 36 disposed in the row 46 indicated by the indicia, week 2.

 Thus, the arrangement and dosages of the tablets therein enables compliance with the regimen of changing the dosage of
25 the medication over the period of time, four weeks as indicated in Figure 1.

 With reference to Figure 2, there is shown an alternative embodiment, or package, 60 in accordance with the present

invention for enabling compliance with a regimen of changing dosage of medication over a period of 8 weeks. In this embodiment, a backing 62 is provided with an array 66 of receivers 68 with the array being arranged in rows indicated by the indicia, "week 1 - 8" and columns indicated as "Sun-Sat".

In this embodiment, different sets 72, 74, 76, 78 of tablets 82 are disposed in adjacent rows as shown in Figure 2 or an adjacent columns as shown in the embodiment 100 of Figure 3. Character references have been omitted from Figure 3 to reduce redundancy in description. It should be clear that the embodiment of 60 and 100 are identical except for the arrangement of columns and rows.

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In a method of treating a human patient in accordance with the present invention to reduce damage to retinal ganglion cells associated with glaucoma, the titration packages 60, 100 enable compliance with a regimen of changing dosage of medication over a period of time as hereinabove described in connection with the package 10 shown in Figure 1.

The patient beginning on any of the week completes the removal and use of tablets in a corresponding week in adjacent rows or column before proceeding to the next pair of adjacent rows or columns in a manner as described hereinabove in connection with the embodiment 10 shown in Figure 1.

Although there has been hereinabove described a specific titration/compliance pack in accordance with the present invention for the purpose of illustrating the manner in which the invention may be used to advantage, it should be appreciated that the invention is not limited thereto. That is, the present invention may suitably comprise, consist of, or consist essentially of the recited elements. Further, the invention illustratively disclosed herein suitably may be practiced in the absence of any element which is not specifically disclose herein. Accordingly, any and all modifications, variations or equivalent arrangements which may occur to those skilled in the art, should be considered to be within the scope of the present invention as defined in the appended claims.

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